

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-11 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-05

BIB-01 CU-02 /082 W

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R 031615Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 775

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3334

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, UR, UK

SUBJECT: SOVIET CSCE IMPLEMENTATION: BRITISH EMBASSY VIEWS

STATE FOR EUR/SOV

USIA FOR IEU

LENINGRAD FOR P&C

REF: STATE 45954

1. EMBASSY HAS CONSULTED AMERICAN AND BRITISH JOURNALISTS, AS WELL AS BRITISH EMBASSY, REGARDING PRIOR SOVIET AUTHORIZATION TO EXPORT TAPES AND FILM. EMBASSY OPINION CONFIRMED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT CHANGES IN PROCEDURE.

2. UK EMBASSY OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT REUTERS CORRESPONDENT TOLD HIM THAT SHTRTLY AFTER HELSINKI THE REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR APPROVAL WAS DROPPED. CHECK WITH REUTERS REVEALED THIS HAD INDEED BEEN THEIR BELIEF,BUT THEY NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN EXPORTING TAPES OR FILMS.

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3. CHECKING WITH ABC, CBS, NBC, AP AND UPI CONFIRMED EMBASSY

ASSESSMENT THAT BOTH PAST AND PRESENT PROCEDURES HAVE NOT BEEN PREDICTABLE. RECOLLECTION OF OLDER HANDS IS THAT IN PAST, IT WAS COMMON PRACTICE TO INFORM MFA/PRESS BY PHONE THAT FILM OR TAPES WERE BEING SHIPPED. MFA PRESUMABLY THEN SMOOTHED THE WAY WITH CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. SOME 1 1/2 TO 2 YEARS AGO, CUSTOMS PROCEDURES BEGAN TO RELAX AND PRIOR CALLS TO MFA WERE GRADUALLY DROPPED.

4. TV CORRESPONDENTS IN PARTICULAR RECALL FEW PROBLEMS DURING SUCH OCCASIONS AS PRESIDENTIAL VISITS, BUT THEY HAVE NOT FOREGOTTEN THE INFAMOUS "PLUG PULLING" DURING THE LAST NIXON VISIT WHEN BROADCASTS ON DISSIDENTS WERE TWICE INTERRUPTED.

5. BY THE SAME TOKEN, INCIDENTS CONTINUE TO OCCUR WHEN TAPES OR FILMS ARE NOT ACCEPTED BY CUSTOMS UNTIL STRONG PROTESTS ARE LODGED WITH MFA.

6. IN SUM, WHEREAS AT ONE TIME IT WAS GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION WAS REQUIRED TO EXORT FILMS OR TAPES, THE STITUATION HAS EVOLVED TO THE PRESENT ATTITUDE THAT PRIOR AUTHORIZATIN NEED NOT BE SOUGHT.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: TREATY COMPLIANCE, FILMS, JOURNALISTS, RECORDINGS
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Draft Date: 03 MAR 1976
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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